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GSU Program Offers Options for Working Professionals

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GSU program offers options for working professionals

Georgia Southern University has been offering a fully online Master of Science in applied economics (MSAE) since 2008. The degree consists of 18 credit hours of core economic theory that covers microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics (statistical techniques applied in economic research).



Godfrey Gibbison

The 30-hour MSAE course of study is designed to be completed within two calendar years, including two summer semesters. Students generally take six credit hours during fall and spring semester and three credit hours during each summer semester.

After completing the six-course core, students choose two concentrations from the following three areas:

- Financial economics — a comprehensive study of financial markets and risk and the theories and techniques used to analyze risk;

- Economic development — theoretical and public policy applications that foster a business environment conducive to long-term economic growth; and

- Industrial organization — the study of the behavior of businesses operating in imperfectly competitive markets and the potential for government regulation to increase efficiency in such markets.

The structure of the program offers a number of advantages to working professionals.

Perhaps the main advantage is schedule and location flexibility. This degree can be completed from any location internationally as long as the Internet is available. Students also benefit from a flat tuition rate, currently \$390 per credit hour, regardless of whether you are in Savannah, Seattle or Seoul.

Secondly, this high-quality program offers courses designed and taught by Georgia Southern's internationally recognized faculty.

Third, an important signal of quality in business education

The (Master of Science in applied economics) consists of 18 credit hours of core economic theory that covers microeconomics, macroeconomics and econometrics ...

tion is earned accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern has enjoyed more than 30 years of AACSB accreditation, ensuring the quality you expect.

Fourth, we place a strong emphasis on academic rigor and student success. In just three years this relatively small graduate program (57 students currently) has produced 12 graduates, a remarkable feat for a start-up online graduate program.

Finally, no campus visit is

required, though we encourage students to attend graduation and participate in the Eagle Nation experience.

This degree program is popular among mid-career professionals who are seeking career advancement in fields such as investment banking, financial analyst, economic development and state and federal government regulation.

The program's graduates are expected to be competitive for employment in private enterprise, including financial institutions, industry and utility companies and governmental organizations engaged in regulation and economic development.

And now for the nitty gritty.

Students who are interested in this program need to demonstrate proficiency in intermediate economics (both micro and macroeconomics), calculus and statistics but do not need to be undergraduate economics majors. Both intermediate micro and macroeconomics are offered online to meet the needs of prospective students who have not yet

completed these courses.

A mathematics refresher course (Summer Math Boot Camp) is also offered through the Division of Continuing Education for students who need to renew their mathematics proficiency.

In addition, we expect applicants to attain competitive scores on either the GRE or GMAT test. Students who have already completed a graduate degree are usually granted a test score waiver (regardless of the field of study) as long as the graduate degree is from an appropriately accredited college or university. A strong undergraduate GPA is also a plus.

We also ask applicants to write a personal statement discussing their interest in advanced study in economics and how they expect this degree to benefit them in their long-term career aspirations.

Godfrey Gibbison is an associate professor and director of the School of Economic Development at Georgia Southern. He can be contacted at ggibbiso@georgiasouthern.edu.



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